(b) No, Sir. As per preliminary investigation, the said crashes of two MIG 21 were due to malfunction of main fuel pump and not due to spares.

(c) Exact causes of accidents are under joint investigation by specialists from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Indian Air Force, Centre for Military Air Worthiness Certification (CEMILAC) and Director General Aeronautics Quality and Assurance (DGAQA).

Indo-France joint exercises

790. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France will conduct combat exercises with the Indian Air Force in Gwalior next year;

(b) if so, the number of exercises likely to be performed ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Air Force has recently been trained by the Air Forces of some other countries; and

(d) if so, what are the names of such countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One.

(c) Some IAF personnel have been trained by the air forces of friendly countries on reciprocal basis, as part of international defence cooperation.

(d) The major countries with which IAF has such defence cooperation programmes are USA, UK, France, Russia, Australia etc.

Benefits of Indo-US joint military exercises

791. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indo-US military exercises have taken place during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits derived by our defence forces therefrom;

(c) whether these exercises also covered combating nuclear war;

(d) whether such joint exercises have also been carried out recently with Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?